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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 NEA-10 PA-01 H-01 PM-05
SAA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ISO-00 /065 W
----------044460 251924Z /44S
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1370
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2003

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PBOR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO'S VIEWS

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO JULY 24 GAVE ME RUNDOWN ON WALDHEIM'S JULY 17 VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND HIS (SIILASVUO'S) AND GUYER'S SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO AMMAN. UNIFIL, UPCOMING MEETING WITH EITAN, AND HIS TRAVEL TO CAIRO ALSO DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

1. SIILASVUO DID NOT ATTEND MEETING WITH ASSAD. FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH SYG, GUYER, JONAH AND OTHERS, HE HAD IMPRESSION MAIN PURPOSE OF SYG'S STOPS IN DAMASCUS, TAIF, AND KHARTOUM WAS TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK IN EVENT CURRENT US-LED EFFORT REACHES IMPASSE. IF LEBANESE SITUATION DISCUSSED IN DEPTH, SIILASVUO WAS UNAWARE OF IT.

2. AFTER HIS DISCUSSIONS IN DAMASCUS, SYG DISPATACHED
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GUYER AND SIILASVUO TO TALK TO PM BADRAN AND COURT CHIEF SHARAF. JORDANIANS WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AS RESULT OF ISRAELI - EGYPTIAN EXCHANGES UNDER US AUSPICES. SHARAF SEEMED TO EXPECT US WOULD AT SOME STAGE TABLE ITS OWN IDEAS WHICH WOULD BE REJECTED BY ISRAEL, THEREBY PRODUCING DANGEROUS DEADLOCK. IN ORDER TO PREVENT "RADICALIZATION" IN EGYPT, JORDANIANS WERE INCLINED TO

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WORK FOR ARAB UNITY. THEY DID NOT SEEM ATTRACTED TO
WALDHEIM'S "SAFETY NET" IDEA FOR MEETINGS IN NEW YORK.

3. WHILE IN AMMAN, SIILASVUO ALSO BRIEFED JORDAN'S
PERMREP TO THE UN ON UNIFIL. SIILASVUO SAID UNIFIL,
CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS OF MANY, HAD DONE A GOOD JOB
UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. (GOI, PROPAGANDA TO THE CONTRARY,
RECOGNIZES THIS FACT.) PLO HAD BEHAVED AND NUMBER
OF ARMED PALESTINIANS IN UNIFIL'S AREA DID NOT EXCEED 200.
MOREOVER, WHEN REJECTIONSISTS OCCASIONALLY CREATED TROUBLE,
ARAFAT WAS QUICK TO INTERVENE USUALLY WITH POSITIVE RESULTS.
MAIN PROBLEM, OF COURSE, WAS ISRAEL'S PROXY CONTROL
OF BORDER AREA THROUGH CHRISTIANS. ALTHOUGH UN COULD
TRANSIT CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES TO AND FROM OBSERVATION POSTS
ON THE BORDER, THERE HAD BEEN NO REAL UN DEPLOYMENT IN
AREAS CONTROLLED BY HADDAD AND SHIDIAK.

4. SIILASVUO HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE COS EITAN IN TEL AVIV
LATE AFTERNOON JULY 26. HE WILL AGAIN URGE GOI TO USE
ITS INFLUENCE WITH CHRISTIANS TO PERMIT UN DEPLOYMENT
IN THE BORDER AREA.

5. SIILASVUO WAS AWARE OF REPORTED GOL PLANS TO SEND
SYMBOLIC NUMBER OF LAF PERSONNEL TO THE SOUTH. ALTHOUGH
HE WOULD WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE REMAINS SKEPTICAL
THAT THE MANY POLITICAL AND MILITARY OBSTACLES WILL BE
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OVERCOME.

6. SIILASVUO LEAVES FOR CAIRO JULY 27 WHERE HE HOPES TO
SEE GAMASY BEFORE DEPARTURE ON SIX-WEEKS LEAVE. HE WILL
ALSO BRIEF PRIETO IN CAIRO JULY 29 PRIOR TO LATTER'S
RETURN TO TAKE OVER IN SIILASVUO'S ABSENCE.
NEWLIN

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